

Four Excellent Passports <u>ANYONE</u> Can Obtain

A BLACK PAPER





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In this free report you will learn about four excellent passports that can be obtained through residency.

It's based on our in-depth Second Passport Guide for members of <u>Sovereign Man:</u> <u>Confidential (SMC)-- Our flagship internationalization service.</u>

Members of SMC get access to the full guide that covers three more strategies with many more second passport options and contains much more in-depth step-by-step instructions.

They also get access to hundreds of other intelligence reports, videos and guides that are designed to help them increase their freedom, protect their assets, make more money and legally reduce their tax obligation.

Click here to learn more about Sovereign Man: Confidential



INTRODUCTION

Here at Sovereign Man, we write quite frequently about ways to secure your finances in order to eliminate your dependence on a single source of income, a single financial system, or a single government.

By making sure that you have more than one option in terms of where you earn, save, and invest, you have a *de facto* insurance policy against a variety of threats to your wealth—from recession to financial collapse, to government confiscation.

This is vital to achieving a greater degree of freedom and security in your life.

However, you don't want to forget your most important asset of all—your physical self.

After all, what good is it if your money is free, but you're not?

Just like with your finances, there is a way that you can insure yourself against threats to your personal freedom and security. This comes by having a second passport.

This is your personal insurance policy. And though you might never need it... you're going to be really glad that you have it in case you ever do.

A second passport can be that ticket out from tyranny or oppression... safe passage for you and your family to a new place where the opportunities are better, safer, and brighter.

Even better, a second passport isn't just about protection.



Just like with every solution that we offer here at Sovereign Man, it's both about defense and offense.

An offshore bank, for example, not only helps protect your assets, but it can also open you up to take advantage of greater opportunities. Opportunities to profit.

This could come from higher interest rates or the ability to hold your money in foreign currencies, enabling you to profit from currency fluctuations or even just lower transaction costs.

The same goes for a second passport—while it's the greatest defensive strategy out there, at the same time it's also an exceptional offensive strategy.

Because you see, one of the key benefits of a second passport is that it opens you up to a world with greater travel, work, business, and investment opportunities.

Suddenly you have more countries in which you can reside, more countries in which you can pursue opportunities, more countries to explore without requiring a visa (or paying a fee).

This makes a second passport an excellent thing to have, even if nothing catastrophic actually happens in your home country.

The tricky part is in finding out which passport is best for you to pursue. Each option offers varying degrees of value to your life, and comes with different costs and trade-offs. It's not a one-size fits all kind of thing.

Thus, you need to make your decision based on what you're looking for and



what you can afford, either in terms of time, money, or lifestyle changes.

There are four different strategies to obtain a second passport:

- 1. Ancestry
- 2. Time
- 3. Money
- 4. Flexibility

This free guide covers the time option, but you can learn more about the other options in <u>our Second Passport Article</u>.

FOUR EXCELLENT PASSPORTS ANYONE CAN OBTAIN

Most countries provide a means for naturalization through residency, including the United States and Canada. However, the conditions vary wildly from country to country. So when figuring out which is the best option for you the three most important factors to consider are:

- **1. How long do you have to be a resident** in order to be eligible to begin the application process for naturalization?
- **2. How hard is it to actually obtain residency?** In the United States, for example, residency applications are scrutinized and generally rejected—hence the inordinate number of undocumented workers. In practice, America now sends the tired, poor, huddled masses back to whence they came from. Meanwhile, there are a number of other countries eager to take in smart,



hard-working individuals, that have much simpler requirements.

3. Do you actually have to live there? Many countries' naturalization regulations require an applicant to spend the preponderance of his/her time in that country. Canada is a great example: if you become a Canadian resident and spend too much time out of the country, you render yourself ineligible for citizenship. Other countries, most markedly Panama, have very minimal requirements for how much time you actually have to spend physically in the country.

Let's have a look at some of the best options in this category to find out what's right for you.

1. Belgium (Access to Europe)

Belgian citizenship is quite valuable as a gateway to the European Union. This often overlooked country has some great options for gaining residency, and once you become a resident you can apply for naturalization in 5 years.

The best way to obtain residency (and eventually citizenship) in Belgium generally looks like this:

- 1) Set up a company in Belgium and apply for the professional card residency—or hire yourself and apply for a work permit. We advise that you enlist the services of a legal professional to assist you through this process—we have negotiated a substantial discount for SMC members that use the services of our recommended legal contact in Belgium.
- 2) Obtain a residential address, either through renting or purchasing a home. Some people who go



through this program rent a small place for a few hundred euros per month.

- 3) Once you have the address, register at the local city hall. Make sure you're at that residence for the initial police check, which usually happens within two weeks and likely won't be repeated during the course of the visa.
- 4) Congratulations, you're a resident of Belgium.
- 5) Apply for renewal indefinitely (first after 2 years, then every 5 years), as long as you meet your obligations.

(For example, if you're a resident from having started a company and you say in your application that you'll hire 3 people, make sure you hire 3 people. Also, a clean criminal record is necessary.)

6) Learn some French or Flemish (Dutch) or German. Join a gym, club, or some social organization.

Meet a few people. Prove that this is more than a paper residency.

7) You are eligible to apply for naturalization after five years, which is when you can go to your local municipality to state your intention of becoming a naturalized Belgian citizen.

They'll inform you of the documents necessary for application. Items such as birth certificates may need to be translated and apostilled (certified by a Belgian consulate in the jurisdiction where they were issued), and then you can apply.

Important to note is that in order become naturalized, you don't technically need to live in Belgium full-time. Besides, the Belgian government has no way of



knowing whether you're spending your time in Antwerp, or Bordeaux—Europe's borderless Schengen Area works to your advantage here.

That said, you do need to spend a "reasonable" amount of time there each year and show that you've woven yourself into the social and/or business fabric (hence point 6 above).

They're becoming increasingly strict about that last part, so if you're aiming for citizenship you really do need to make an effort to become part of Belgian life.

See our SMC Alert for more details about this process, as well as how to claim your exclusive SMC discount on legal services.

2. Chile (Best value)

A Chilean passport is one of the most valuable passports out there.

With it you can travel to 150 countries visa-free, ranking it 18th in the world. Even more impressively, the Chilean passport is one of only two (the other being South Korea) travel documents that enables you to travel to all G8 countries visa-free. That even includes the US, Canada, and Russia.

It's not overly difficult to obtain either, it just takes time—roughly five years of continuous residency, first temporary, followed by permanent residency.

There are a number of ways to obtain temporary residency.

For individuals with established income and assets there is an easy way called the rentista visa. To apply for this visa, you need to prove that you have income from investments held overseas. In general, such income could be from:



- Ownership of real estate that generates rental income
- Shares of a company or publicly-traded stock that pays a dividend
- Bond investments that pay a coupon
- A lump sum in a bank account that pays sufficient interest
- Pension income

The slight catch here is that the immigration department doesn't actually release the amount of income required per person. However, if you're earning a minimum of US\$1,000 to US\$1,200 per month through qualified income, this seems to be the magic number based on our boots on the ground experience.

I do suspect that, eventually, this number will be codified. And it will probably be higher than the \$1,000[ish] range we're seeing now.

After nine months on the rentista visa, and having spent at least six months (185 days) in Chile, you can apply for permanent residency. Note, the six months do not need to be all at once and can be accumulated over the course of the year.

Some other visa categories are:

• A *sujeta a contrato* visa allows one to stay in Chile while working for a specific employer. If one loses the primary job, s/he loses the visa as well unless employment transfers to a second employer the same day.

The length of the visa is equal to the lesser of the length of the work contract or two years. As end of the second year approaches, one can apply for permanent residency.

• The visa *como inversionista* is a one-year investor visa that requires an applicant to present a business plan to the department of immigration which will decide if s/he is worthy of a visa to start their business in Chile.



One can do this if relocating a company from abroad to Chile as well. I don't advise applying for this visa unless you're looking to take advantage of some of Chile's attractive incentives for entrepreneurs.

One can apply for permanent residency after nine months on the visa, and having spent at least six months in Chile.

• The *permanencia definitiva* is a permanent residency visa that entitles one to have the same legal standing as a Chilean, just without a passport or the right to vote. Unlike citizens, permanent residents have to touch Chilean soil at least once a year to maintain this visa. This visa is the upgrade for the three types of temporary visas above.

Once the temporary residency application is received, it takes about six months to be approved.

Important to note is that Chile is not one of the places where you can show up for a week, then come back after a few years to collect a passport.

It's important to at least spend meaningful time (more than six-months) during the year of your temporary residency if you want to progress to the permanent residency stage.

That said, Chile is a great place to spend northern hemisphere winter months in, conveniently enabling you to fill out your time requirement while avoiding shovelling snow.

Moreover, when it comes time for naturalization, your case is best supported if you can show some legitimate ties to the country. This includes the ability to speak basic Spanish and possibly demonstrating that you have some ties to



the country through property, investments, or that you're involved in the local community.

3. Argentina (Fastest)

First off, an Argentine passport is an excellent travel document in terms of number of countries you can visit visa-free. This covers all of Europe, including Russia, Turkey etc.

However, unlike Chilean passport holders, Argentine passport holders do need a visa to the USA, Canada, and Australia.

What makes Argentina's citizenship especially attractive though is how short the time requirement is to apply for naturalization.

Argentina's nationality law has been unchanged since 1869 and says that one can qualify to become a citizen after only TWO years of residing in the country. And any residency visa

qualifies you for this.

Similar to Chile, the easiest options are the so-called rentista or retiree visas, which require you only to prove a certain amount of monthly passive income.

In Argentina, in order to qualify for the rentista visa you need to demonstrate a minimum of \$1,000 per

month in passive income, which needs to be transferred to an Argentine bank account in your name.

The following type of income is suitable for the rentista visa:



- Income derived from financial investments: dividends, annuity, receipts from a trust, interest payments from certificates of deposit etc.
- Regular distributions from a business you own outside of Argentina
- Rental income from outside of Argentina

Just like in Chile, the rentista visa is a temporary one-year visa. It can be extended in one-year increments.

It's best to initiate the residency process while in Argentina, not at a consulate abroad, which will only complicate matters unnecessarily.

Once you have your residency you should look to spend at least six months of the year in Argentina for both years.

After two years, you may apply for naturalization. However, given the complexity of the court approval system, we'd recommend commissioning professional legal help to guide you through the process, which should take about 9 months to a year.

Upon application you'll also need to show at least lower intermediate level of Spanish language proficiency. The language test is very informal and "friendly", usually consisting of just a short conversation.

4. Panama (Least time on the ground)

At this point in time, Panamanian residency is one of the easiest in the world to obtain.



And just like in Chile and Belgium, after five years of residency you are eligible to apply for naturalization.

A Panamanian passport offers you somewhat fewer visa-free travel opportunities, at 125 countries, than Chile, Belgium, or Argentina. However, what still makes this passport so attractive for many is that there are exceptionally low requirements for how much time you have to be on the ground in the country to qualify.

This makes for an excellent "Time" option, in which you don't actually have to spend time in the country to qualify.

A second excellent benefit is the country's territorial tax system, which means that Panamanian residents and companies only have to pay local tax on their Panamanian-sourced income.

So as long as your income is earned outside of Panama, it isn't taxable.

For now, Panama is *the* easiest place in the world to establish residency. With a whopping 52 options, it is clear that they are quite welcoming.

By far the easiest option is through the Friendly Nations Visa, which applies to nationals of more than 40 countries, including the US, Australia, most European countries, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, South Africa, and several Latin American countries.

Citizens of any of these countries can obtain residency in Panama extremely easily by merely demonstrating 'economic activity' in the country.



This doesn't mean that you necessarily have to do any business in Panama; you can satisfy this requirement by registering a Panamanian corporation and making a reasonable deposit at a local bank.

Then, once you submit your residency application, you're free to leave the country and come a few months later to collect your documents and ID card.

You don't have to actually live in Panama. In fact, Panama's immigration code now only requires that the visa be renewed after two years (which should be done in Panama). Aside from that, you don't really need to spend any time there.

Five years of residency later you're qualified to apply for naturalization. As always, your naturalization case will be much stronger and smoother if you have at least a basic grasp of Spanish, and, even better, if you can demonstrate some sort of involvement in Panama's business and social life.



COMPARISON OF THE DIFFERENT TIME/RESIDENCY OPTIONS

	Belgium	Chile	Argentina	Panama
Legal fees	4,500 - 9,000 euros	\$1,100 - \$2,300	Residency (\$1,275) + citizenship (\$1,700) = \$2,975	\$7,200
Capital to bring into the country	a) 50,000 EUR salary per year for yourself on the Work Permit visab) At least 40,000 EUR invested in a business on the Professional Card visa	Zero	\$500 - \$1,000 per month needs to be deposited to an Argentine bank account	\$10,000 in a bank deposit
Time for approval	The business should be operational for a few months before applying; the processing time to get approved for residency usually takes 4-5 months.	6 months	2 months	6-8 months
Requirement to spend in country	No specified time requirement, but you should spend a reasonable amount of time there each year and integrate yourself into the social/business fabric	6 months for the first year, at least a day per year after that to maintain permanent residency	6 months for two years	Minimal
Time to apply for naturalization	5 years	5 years	2 years	5 years
Value of passport	A	A	B+	В
Family members can apply	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



BONUS: WHERE YOU CAN GO TO HAVE YOUR CHILD (COUNTRIES WITH JUS SOLI)

There's one more path to citizenship that we've not mentioned yet—being born in a country. This applies to countries that honor the *jus soli* principle, which means the "right of the soil" in Latin.

What this means is that children born in the country are granted citizenship, regardless of the nationality or immigration status of the parents.

This works differently in different countries. In some, just being born within the borders of the country is enough to automatically be granted citizenship. You could even be a tourist just passing through.

These countries with "unrestricted" *jus soli* laws include: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In other countries, one can only obtain citizenship for the child if certain additional requirements are met—such as that at least one parent is a citizen or permanent resident, or that at least one parent was born in the country themselves.

These countries are labeled as "restricted" on the map below, and if you click to view the interactive version of the map you can see what their additional



requirements are.

Among the list are Australia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

While it might be too late for you to choose where you're born, if you are planning to have a child, this is definitely something you should look into.

In fact, there are even some countries, like Brazil, where not only will the child gain citizenship by being born there, but you as the parent can go through the expedited naturalization process as well.

Ultimately, what better gift could a parent ever give their child than a lifetime of greater freedom and opportunity?

But be careful, some passports come with obligations.

Thus, before signing up your child to further government burdens, be sure to look into what else that would entail—the main concerns being taxation and military service requirements.

Here, the US is the perfect example. Children born in the country may instantly become US citizens, but that also means that they become US taxpayers... for life. No matter where they eventually choose to reside.

Below we've mapped out the countries with jus soli, in both unrestricted and restricted forms.





Click here to interact with the map and learn more about the countries and their restrictions, if applicable: https://infogr.am/countries where a child can gain citizenship on birth

Bottom line—even if you're not expecting to have a child just yet, it is undoubtedly worth considering this when making your residency decisions, just in case.



CONCLUSION

A second passport stands to be the best insurance policy possible for your physical self, your freedom and your opportunities.

Not all second passport routes are right for everyone, but by considering your preferences, situation, and options, you should be able to find one that's right for you.

In order to make the best decision, look at what a passport can offer you. Look at which countries particular passports open doors to and how they stand to reduce your tax burden.

Then compare that against the costs. Not just in terms of the monetary commitment, but also in terms of your time expenditure and the necessary adjustments to your lifestyle.

Ideally you'll find a place where you wouldn't mind spending a bit of time in, which makes the application process not only cheaper and more pleasant for you, but it even makes the document you end up with more legitimate.

At the end of the day, these things take time, and they take effort. And like any insurance plan you need to have it in place BEFORE crisis strikes in order for it to be effective.

Thus it makes sense to start taking action as soon as possible. You surely won't be any worse off for doing so.

Then, once you you have your second passport in hand, go ahead and feel



relieved, knowing that no matter what happens you have a Plan B, a way out in case crisis or chaos strikes your home country.

Believe me, it's one of the best feeling in the world.

In Freedom,

Simon Black

Simon Black

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